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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/049,232	02/11/2002	Kanji Kurome	AAO-261	9479

7590 08/20/2003

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EXAMINER

DRODGE, JOSEPH W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1723

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/049,232	KUROME ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Joseph W. Dodge	1723		

~~The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address~~

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 February 2002 .

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,5.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

NON-FINAL REJECTION

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on June 12, 2000. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the Japanese application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claims 4-6 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims not been further treated on the merits.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Treu et al patent 5,788,099 in view of Jonsson et al patent 4,784,495.

Treu et al disclose a system for preparing dialysate solution from solid powdery material and liquid comprising inverted container(s) 250 (column 4, lines 24-28), each held in container holder 110 (column 5, lines 3-8), the container having bottom wall 372, sealing member 222 and opening 362 (all shown in figure 15A), a cutter 242 for piercing the sealing member (column 4, lines 28-31), a tank 108 therebeneath, and a nozzle for spraying liquid into the tank (column 5, lines 59-63).

The claims differ in requiring a mesh above the tank through which contents of the container pass after the seal is pierced. Jonsson et al teach such mesh 12 (column 5, lines 59-61 and figures 1-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the Treu et al system by providing such mesh, as taught by Jonsson et al, so as to pass powder having a uniform mesh size into the mixing tank to create a dialysate solution with improved flow capacities (see also Jonsson et al column 12, lines 4-45 regarding motivation to combine).

Regarding claim 2, see discussion of mesh sizes in column 12, lines 11-16 of Jonsson et al and see Treu et al column 5, lines 59-63 regarding the cutter having a cylindrical body.

Regarding claim 3, Jonsson et al state in column 17, lines 13-31 that the proportions of solid to liquid ingredients may vary within wide limits.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Cosentino et al patent 4,664,891 teach mixing of powder and liquid using spray nozzles to prepare dialysate while Shah et al teach preliminary RO filtering of water before it is mixed to form dialysate solution as in instant claims 4 and 5

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Drodge whose telephone number is (703) 308-0403. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from approximately 8:30 AM – 4:45 PM.

The fax phone number for this group is (703) 892-9306. When filing a FAX in Tech Center 1700, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file and "Unofficial" for draft documents.

JWD

August 11, 2003


JOSEPH DRODGE
PRIMARY EXAMINER